Our Mission

To provide a world-class international school where students, through active participation, achieve their personal best and graduate as skilled, influential and responsible international citizens.

Who We Are

Incorporated in 1995, AISHK was founded to fulfil the growing demand for high-quality Australian educational institution in Hong Kong. The School is a co-educational, non-denominational, that operates on the Australian school year (i.e. January to December) and caters for more than 1,100 pupils.

Based on an Australian curriculum, the School’s medium of instruction is English. Putonghua is also taught as part of the curriculum, which has been modified to fit an Asian setting. Students in Years 11 and 12 can choose to study courses offered in either the Higher School Certificate or the IB Diploma.

We can proudly say we are a leading international school in Hong Kong with a reputation for outstanding academic performance. Over 98% of our graduates go on to study at the top universities in Australia and throughout the World. We promote the pursuit of personal excellence, both in and out of the classroom. However, we make it clear that striving for excellence and trying to improve and do one’s best, does not equate to perfectionism.

Our student body has representation from over 27 different nationalities. We promote Australian principles and values but also celebrate the diversity of our community and embrace the rich cultural opportunities of our home in Hong Kong. We place great importance in recruiting and retaining high-calibre teaching staff from Australia and the rest of the world.
Our Values

Excellence
Respect
Honesty
Diligence
Trust
Collaboration
Responsibility
Integrity
Equity
Creativity
Founded to fulfil the growing demand for an Australian educational institution in Hong Kong, the Australian International School Hong Kong (AISHK) was incorporated on 26 January, 1995 as a co-educational, non-denominational, English medium international school.

AISHK was first located in a rented school building at Boundary Street, Kowloon Tong with 24 students on the first day, 6 February, 1995. After relocating to the Gun Club School in July that year, the School began its first Year 7 class. The final temporary move for AISHK was in December 1998 to Tonkin Street, Cheung Sha Wan.

In 1997, the Hong Kong Government granted AISHK about 6000m2 of land at 3A Norfolk Road, Kowloon Tong to build the current campus, which was opened on 4 September, 2001 with more than 500 students.
Governance and Management

The Australian International School Foundation Limited is a charitable status body which provides governance for the school and guardianship for its future.

The Foundation Board has permanent representation from five key Australian organisations in Hong Kong:

- The Australian Consulate General in Hong Kong;
- The Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong;
- The Federation of Australian Alumni Associations Hong Kong Ltd;
- The Australian Association of Hong Kong Ltd; and
- The Australian Chinese Association of Hong Kong Ltd

Other members are seconded to the Board, including a representative from the AISHK Parent Association. The Board's role is to appoint the Heads of school and in consultation with the Head, develop policies and strategies which fulfil the school's mission.

The School is led by the Co Heads of School, who are in turn assisted by the Executive Team of Primary and Secondary Principals, Assistant Principals, Business Administrator and Director of Development and Community Relations. Senior staff work with the Heads of Department and Co-ordinators in the Leadership team.
AISHK is dedicated to providing a world-class standard in education. Throughout the School class sizes are maintained at a maximum of 26 students per class, allowing teachers to provide students with more individual attention.

Early Childhood (Reception to Year 2)

AISHK places great value and importance on the early years of education. The Early Childhood Department establishes an environment where students develop a sense of responsibility for self and others, and develop their self-reliance and positive image, through co-operation with teachers, other students and staff members.

Through interactive experiences and activities, such as informal, imaginative play, students are encouraged to create meaning, practise social skills, learn how to solve problems, gain confidence and develop positive attitudes to school and learning. Students have opportunity to construct, discover, experiment, hypothesise, manipulate and share a variety of materials, resources and learning experiences.
Primary (Year 3 to Year 6)

AISHK focuses on student development and independence during Primary years. Students will develop self motivation and skills for independent learning and tolerance of differences, while critical thinking and creativity are nurtured within a safe, structured, yet flexible environment.

A wide variety of teaching strategies are used but the emphasis, at all times, is on active participation, which encourages students to take ownership of their own learning. Classrooms in Primary are organised so that student experiences are dynamic and purposeful, with frequent opportunities to investigate, communicate and explore.

The Key Learning Areas in Primary includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and Its Environment
- Creative Arts
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Middle Secondary (Year 7 – 10)

Students in Middle Secondary study the New South Wales Curriculum and following the completion of these years will culminate in the award of the School Certificate.

Students are encouraged to be personally responsible for their studies, with the aim of achieving self-discipline and social communication skills. The program continues to use an integrated design, which builds the foundation for the external examinations undertaken in Year 12.

Senior Secondary (Year 11 – 12)

In Years 11 and 12, Senior Secondary, students may chose to study the Higher School Certificate (NSW Curriculum) or the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The curriculum provided through both these tertiary entrance qualifications is structured, purposeful and focuses on clear learning objectives and outcomes.

The Higher School Certificate and the IB are internationally recognised as providing world-class preparation for students wishing to access tertiary studies in any country. In addition, both programs offer a variety of life skills necessary to successfully encounter adult life.
Higher School Certificate

The Higher School Certificate is an internationally recognised credential that provides a strong foundation for the future, whether students wish to pursue tertiary qualifications, vocational training or employment.

The HSC offers syllabuses that set clear expectations of what students must learn and measures performance against set standards. Marks in each course are reported against descriptive performance bands that show what students know, understand and can do.

To be eligible for the award of the Higher School Certificate a student must satisfactorily complete at least 12 units in the Preliminary study pattern and at least 10 units in the HSC study pattern.

The Preliminary HSC course will be taught in Year 11, Terms 1, 2 and 3 or until outcomes are achieved. The Higher School Certificate course will be taught from Term 4 in Year 11 to the end of Term 3 in Year 12. The Higher School Certificate examinations are typically held yearly from October to November.
International Baccalaureate

The AISHK IBDP is an academically challenging course that is generally completed over two years. To be awarded the IB diploma, students must satisfy the course requirements in one course from each of the following groups: Language A1, Language A2, B, ab initio, Individuals and Societies, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics, Arts and Electives.

At least three (and not more than four courses) are taken at “higher level” (HL - 240 hours over two years) and the other courses at “standard level” (SL - 150 hours over two years).

Additionally, students must complete a Theory of Knowledge (TOK) component which is designed to foster critical reflection on students’ own knowledge and experience; a program of Creativity, Action and Service (CAS); and an extended essay of 4000 words on a topic of personal interest.

For more information about subjects in each course, see the School website – www.aishk.edu.hk.

Results and University Entrance

Over 98% of our graduates go on to study at the top universities in Australia and around the world. Approximately 60% of students continue their tertiary studies in Australia, while other graduates remain in Hong Kong or travel to the UK, USA, Europe and New Zealand.
Careers

The careers program plays an important role in preparing AISHK students for life after school, paying particular attention to their pathway to tertiary education. Using ‘an Australian blueprint’, the program ensures that key areas of personal management, learning and working, exploring and career building are addressed throughout Secondary.

Across each subject from Years 7 to 9, students discuss possible careers pathways in the context of the units being taught. Secondary students also attend our annual Tertiary Expo (taking place today) and a Careers Night, which is then followed up with discussions with homeroom teachers.

In Year 10, all students attend career profiling interviews in preparation for the Work Education program, which allows students to explore, in detail, chosen careers and begin a career portfolio. In Term 4, they take part in two weeks work experience in a field of their choice. The Careers Advisor meets with each student for one-on-one interviews about subject selection for Years 11 and 12 and to discuss post-school options. In addition to these meetings, Year 12 students are provided with guidance and assistance with their tertiary applications.
Chinese studies are compulsory for all students from Reception to Year 7 and becomes an elective subject from Year 8 to 12. From Year 7 to 12 Chinese is taught according to NSW syllabus guidelines. The dialect of Chinese taught is commonly known as Putonghua (Mandarin) and the simplified form of characters is used.

The Chinese program facilitates opportunities for students to be proficient and competent in using the Chinese language to speak, read and write. Students also gain an appreciation and understanding of the literature, history, culture and geography of China.

Each year AISHK celebrates Chinese Week to promote the understanding of Chinese culture, history and to encourage the use of the Chinese language within the school community.
Extra Curricular Activities

Extra Curricular Activities (ECA) are regular organised activities that occur outside normal school hours, which are led by staff, parents or external organisations. Students can choose from sports, arts, academic and community activities. ECAs extend and build upon the school curriculum, encourage student participation and develop social skills and team work.

Representative Sports

In line with Australian culture we embrace a very wide range of sports with great enthusiasm and determination. AISHK participates in competitive sport against local and overseas international schools through the Association of China and Mongolia International Schools (ACAMIS), International Schools Sports Federation of Hong Kong (ISSFHK) and Hong Kong Secondary Sports Federation (HKSSF).
In both the Primary and Secondary Divisions, students are elected from each year group to be part of the Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC provides students with a means of voicing their concerns and opinions.

In Primary a Head Boy and Head Girl are elected from Year 6, while a boy and girl School Captains and Vice Captains are elected from Year 12 in Secondary. Prefects are also appointed in Secondary from Year 11 and 12 students. They are appointed responsibilities such as, SRC leaders, Community Service, Transition and Sports Committee Liaison.

The House system is also used across Primary and Secondary, which provides a way of dividing the School for performance, competition and pastoral care activities. Captains and Vice Captains are elected for each Division.

Other leadership opportunities are also available to students through sports and other extra-curricular activities.

Community Service

Community service is an integral component of AISHK culture. Each year our staff, students and the wider school community enthusiastically take part in community service both locally and internationally.

Through a variety of fundraising initiatives, the student body actively supports a selected group of local and international charities. In addition students active serve those less fortunate through various measures including helping build houses in Cambodia, conducting English lessons at rural Chinese primary schools and visiting orphanages and elderly homes in Hong Kong, China, India, Vietnam and several other countries.
The Learning Enrichment Centre provides a welcoming and supportive environment for students who have a range of learning needs and provides extra support for students whose first language is not English.

Programs offered by the Centre include, reading support, homework help, spelling programs, fine motor skills and Maths and English support. The LEC is accessible to all students from Reception to Year 12, both in-class and on an individual basis.

English as a Second Language

Support is provided for students for whom English is a second language. In primary school, the ESL program runs parallel to English classes for three 45 minute lessons a week. Students participating in this program will not miss out on what is being taught in their English classes as the ESL teachers will complement the topics and tasks done there. ESL support is also provided in secondary English classes.
Admissions

Placement at AISHK will depend on space availability at the time an application is processed. Australian/New Zealand passport holders have priority on our waiting lists.

Applicants must have a high level of oral and written English. Supporting material such as satisfactory school reports may be required for application. The need for an assessment will be determined after the application has been reviewed by the School.

Should applicants from Year 5 onwards require an assessment, a fee will be charged in addition to the application fee. This assessment fee will be at the applicant’s own expense, and will be paid prior to the assessment.

An application has a currency of two years: the academic year the applicant is applying for and the subsequent year. For further admissions information, application forms and calendar dates, please see the School Website – www.aishk.edu.hk – or contact the Admissions Office on admissions@aishk.edu.hk or 2304 6078.

Fees

Tuition fees include all text books, work books, local excursions, special art materials, literary magazines and a Yearbook.

Please refer to the School website (www.aishk.edu.hk) for more detailed and up to date information.
AISHK is a non-profit organisation and does not receive any funding from any government agencies. The School operates primarily on School fees and community support through gifts, pledges and bequests to implement the School’s vision and continue to improve learning facilities for students. The support of each and every member of the AISHK community is necessary to achieve this.

AISHK is a registered charity and donations are tax deductible in Hong Kong. Naming Rights are offered to individual donors, as well as corporations, who may use this opportunity to show their continuing support of the school.

Over the years the School and Foundation have received support from a number of Australian and Hong Kong companies and individuals, and have worked hard to forge long-term relationships. The commitment of the AISHK Parent Association has been a mainstay in our fundraising.

Australian International School Hong Kong For more information on how you can help email the Development Office on development@aishk.edu.hk.

Communication

The School communicates to parents and the wider community through the weekly newsletter, Dhanara, biannual magazine, the Lion Rock and the Yearbook. Both the Dhanara and Lion Rock are available on the School website.